

Silver-haired Legislature's activities in terms of lodging and transportation and accommodation when they are here has been financed totally through private grants. The Nebraska Department of Aging has always had an organizing activity on behalf of the Silver-haired Legislature, that is it uses staff people to help conduct the elections. It uses staff people to help get people here and so forth. But to a large extent the work of the Silver-haired Legislature has been done through private grants. Now what that has meant is that senior citizens in our state have had to go...have had to go to foundations and the churches and the charitable organizations to get little nickels and dimes so that they in turn could then conduct a Silver-haired Legislature. So what they decided and what they asked me to do was to introduce a bill, which I have done, taken to the Public Health and Welfare Committee, advanced to this floor by the Public Health and Welfare Committee to simply provide that the Nebraska Department...that the State of Nebraska, that the State of Nebraska would provide \$10,000 to the Department of Aging, not to the 49 members, not to the Silver-haired Legislature, but to the Department of Aging so that the Department of Aging in turn could help defray some of the expenses of the annual operation of the Silver-haired Legislature. Now the dollar amount is real small, no big deal. The real question in your mind is going to be the principle. The real question is going to be the principle, and the principle is, should the State of Nebraska commit any of its dollars to a group of individuals whose basic purpose in life is to provide an advisory capacity to older people and to the Legislature and to the government regarding the needs of older people, because that is the basic function of the Silver-haired Legislature. Now since I am carrying the bill, you know how I come out on that issue. But let me tell you why I think you should come out the same way on that issue. I think you should come out the same way on that issue because I think one of the most important services that we as a state can provide is a service essentially designed to provide us in an organized fashion comment and input and thought processes of citizenry of our state. I personally would have no reticence about a similar commitment of state funds for say a poor people's congress. I personally would not have any reticence about a similar commitment of state funds for say a handicapped council, because the truth of the matter is you and I need